

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Organization Capability. University of Illinois Extension was established in 1914 as a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of Illinois, the land grant institution in the state of Illinois. In 1963, Illinois passed the County Cooperative Extension Law, which recognized the Local Councils set up by Extension, who serves as liaisons between Extension and County Boards. This long history of partnership at both the federal and local level provides a time tested method to disseminate research based information in a practical manner to local constituents. This rich experience will be drawn upon for the Compassion Capital Fund Project.

Extension is deeply imbedded into the communities of Illinois, with 77 unit offices throughout Illinois, as well as 12 Extension Centers and numerous specialists working from the Urbana-Champaign Campus of University of Illinois (See office listing, Attachment A). These offices are devoted to fulfilling Extension's mission of providing quality, relevant outreach and continuing education programs and services to the people of Illinois, to put knowledge to work. In the specific eight counties of west central Illinois served by the proposed project, there are eight county offices representing six units, and one extension center. These offices have developed many community partnerships throughout the region, and contacts that will enable project personnel to quickly identify key agencies and individuals to facilitate the agency recruiting process.

As illustrated in the organizational chart, Extension is a unit of one of ten academic colleges that comprise the University. Set up as five geographic regions throughout the state, Extension is a very flat organization in its management approach. The proposed Compassion

Capital Fund Grant would be set up as a Special Project administratively responsible to the Office of the Associate Dean of Extension and Outreach. Precedent for this type of structure exists within the organization for special projects, such as the current Children, Youth and Families at Risk Project (CYFAR).

In addition to close local ties, University of Illinois Extension has an extensive history of providing sound financial controls and management for both private and government grants. Grant partnerships with the Kellogg Foundation, Small Business Administration, and Department of Agriculture are just a few examples of previous grants received and carried out by Extension personnel. These projects, like the Compassion Capital Fund Proposal, draw on not only the expertise of the project personnel, but the full resources of the world class research institution that is the University of Illinois.